

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-02 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY S/SCCT: EWSCHAEFER:NWH

APPROVED BY S/CCT:RAFEAREY

AF/E: RSBARRETT

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P 011333Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233537

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 13868 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA

ASMARA DTD 25 SEPT

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13868

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, IT

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS WITH ETHIOPIAN LIBERATION FRONT

1. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT AFFECTED AGENCIES OF USG HAVE, AND ARE EMPLOYING, COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS TO ERITREAN DISSIDENTS HOLDING US KIDNAP VICTIMS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO RECALL THAT GOI HAS LONG-STANDING, EFFECTIVE AND FACILE LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH BOTH MAJOR FACTIONS OF ELF. WE ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT GOI WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO ASSIST USG IN THIS RESPECT IF REQUESTED.

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3. MFA OFFICER RECALLED TO EMBOFF TODAY THAT GOI ITSELF SET

OUT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN SUCH CHANNELS AROUND 1970 IN ORDER BETTER TO EFFECT RELEASE OF ITALIAN CITIZENS KIDNAPPED BY ERITREAN REBELS. SAID RESULTS HAS BEEN HIGHLY SATISFACTORY TO GOI; BOTH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL FACTION AND PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT PROFESS WARM FEELINGS TOWARD ITALY AND ITALIANS. SOURCE SAID THESE PROFESSIONS OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOME SUBSTANCE, NO ITALIAN CITIZEN HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED IN ERITREA FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS. HE ADDED, MOREOVER, THAT IF A CITIZEN WERE TO BE KIDNAPPED IT WOULD SURELY BE BY EITHER AN APOLITICAL BANDIT, OR BY SOMEBODY WHO DIDN'T GET THE WORD. VOLPE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: KIDNAPPING, COMMUNICATION LINES, DEPENDENTS, LIBERATION FRONTS
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Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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